



Cattle on Feed

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United States Cattle on Feed Down 1 Percent

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.7 million head on March 1, 2015. The inventory was 1 percent below March 1, 2014.

Placements in feedlots during February totaled 1.52 million, 8 percent below 2014. Net placements were 1.46 million head. During February, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 330,000, 600-699 pounds were 270,000, 700-799 pounds were 388,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 535,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during February totaled 1.52 million, 2 percent below 2014. February marketings are the lowest since the series began in 1996.

Other disappearance totaled 62,000 during February, 13 percent below 2014.

Number of Cattle on Feed, Placements, Marketings, and Other Disappearance on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots – United States: March 1, 2014 and 2015

Item	Number		Percent of previous year
	2014	2015	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
On feed February 1	10,678	10,713	100
Placed on feed during February	1,658	1,523	92
Fed cattle marketed during February	1,549	1,516	98
Other disappearance during February	71	62	87
On feed March 1	10,716	10,658	99

Number of Cattle on Feed, Placements, Marketings, and Other Disappearance on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots – United States: February 1, 2014 and 2015

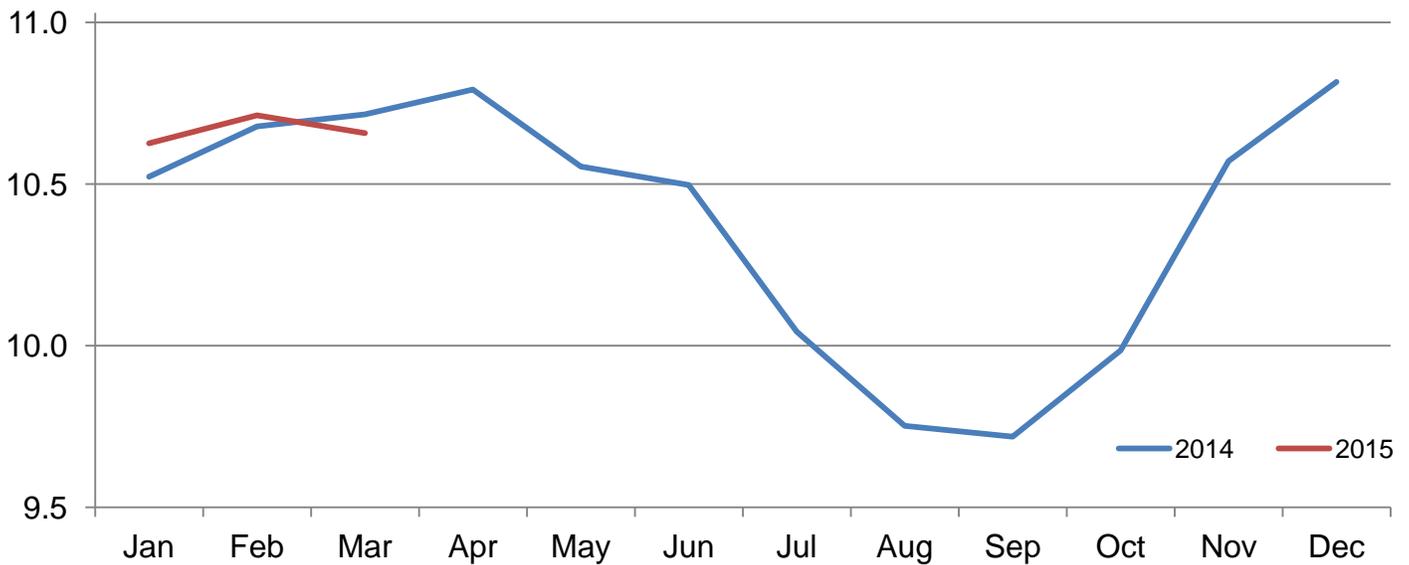
Item	Number		Percent of previous year
	2014	2015	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
On feed January 1	10,523	10,626	101
Placed on feed during January	2,014	1,789	89
Fed cattle marketed during January	1,788	1,625	91
Other disappearance during January	71	77	108
On feed February 1	10,678	10,713	100

Number of Cattle on Feed on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2014 and 2015

State	March 1, 2014	February 1, 2015	March 1, 2015		
			Number	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona	272	247	243	89	98
California	500	440	440	88	100
Colorado	920	890	870	95	98
Idaho	205	230	230	112	100
Iowa	670	650	660	99	102
Kansas	2,060	2,090	2,080	101	100
Minnesota	134	141	145	108	103
Nebraska	2,470	2,500	2,490	101	100
Oklahoma	270	265	275	102	104
South Dakota	220	230	235	107	102
Texas	2,470	2,490	2,450	99	98
Washington	200	210	215	108	102
Other States	325	330	325	100	98
United States	10,716	10,713	10,658	99	99

Cattle on Feed Inventory on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots – United States

Million head

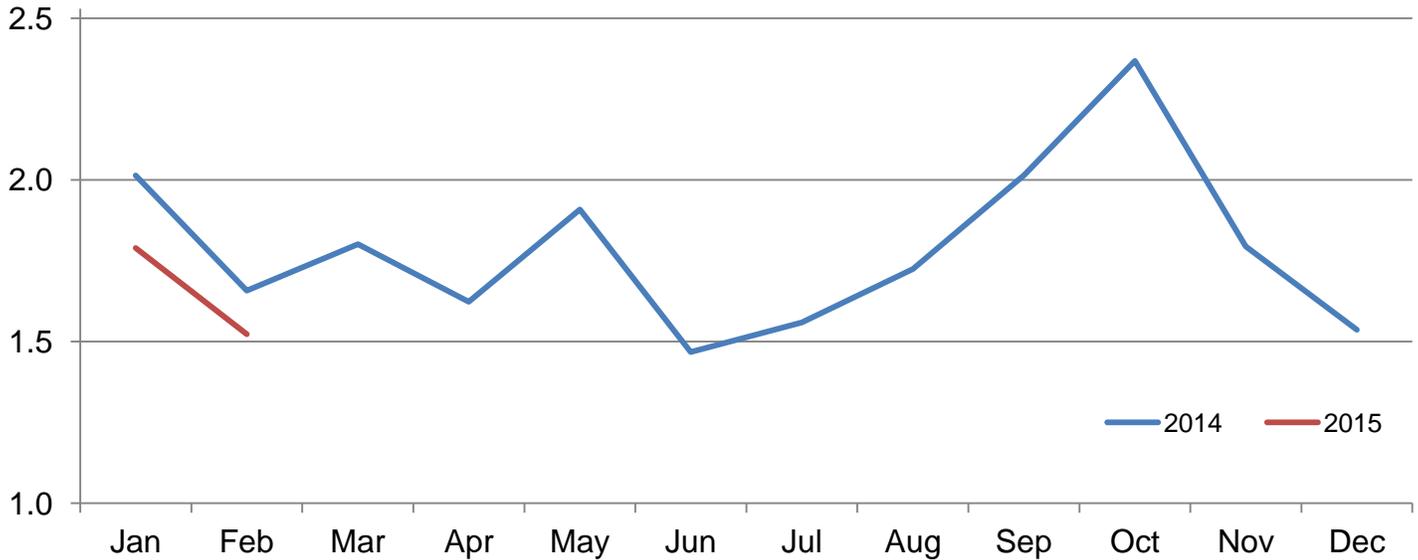


Number of Cattle Placed on Feed on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2014 and 2015

State	During February 2014 (1,000 head)	During January 2015 (1,000 head)	During February 2015		
			Number (1,000 head)	Percent of previous year (percent)	Percent of previous month (percent)
Arizona	28	30	19	68	63
California	38	64	50	132	78
Colorado	135	135	130	96	96
Idaho	37	35	31	84	89
Iowa	86	90	85	99	94
Kansas	335	410	355	106	87
Minnesota	11	17	18	164	106
Nebraska	430	505	390	91	77
Oklahoma	43	50	42	98	84
South Dakota	39	30	41	105	137
Texas	410	350	285	70	81
Washington	38	40	43	113	108
Other States	28	33	34	121	103
United States	1,658	1,789	1,523	92	85

Number of Cattle Placed on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots – United States

Million head



Number of Cattle Placed on Feed by Weight Group on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2014 and 2015

State	During February									
	Under 600 lbs		600-699 lbs		700-799 lbs		800+ lbs		Total	
	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)
Colorado	30	25	25	25	35	35	45	45	135	130
Kansas	60	60	60	65	90	95	125	135	335	355
Nebraska	65	60	90	65	105	95	170	170	430	390
Texas	155	100	90	50	100	75	65	60	410	285
Other States	80	85	65	65	88	88	115	125	348	363
United States	390	330	330	270	418	388	520	535	1,658	1,523

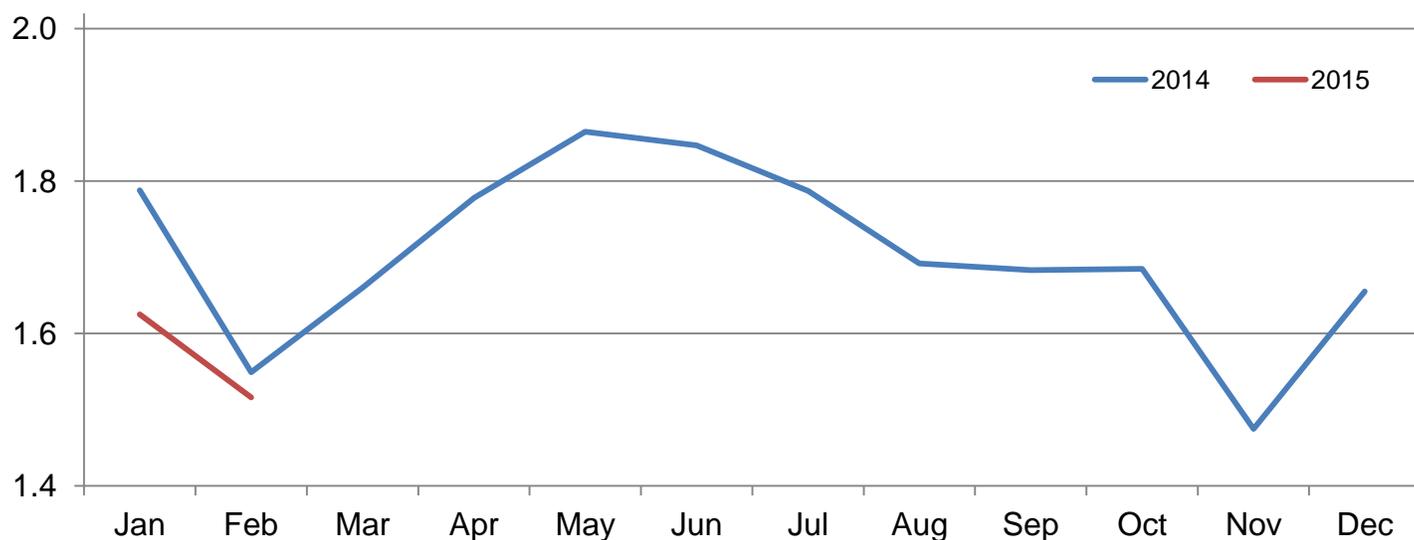
State	During January									
	Under 600 lbs		600-699 lbs		700-799 lbs		800+ lbs		Total	
	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)
Colorado	45	30	45	25	50	35	50	45	190	135
Kansas	65	65	90	85	145	125	135	135	435	410
Nebraska	75	65	115	100	165	140	190	200	545	505
Texas	160	125	80	60	95	95	70	70	405	350
Other States	125	125	105	70	104	79	105	115	439	389
United States	470	410	435	340	559	474	550	565	2,014	1,789

Number of Cattle Marketed on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2014 and 2015

State	During February 2014	During January 2015	During February 2015		
			Number	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
			(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona	27	23	19	70	83
California	55	44	43	78	98
Colorado	155	140	145	94	104
Idaho	41	34	29	71	85
Iowa	74	78	74	100	95
Kansas	315	355	355	113	100
Minnesota	12	12	13	108	108
Nebraska	375	450	385	103	86
Oklahoma	36	39	30	83	77
South Dakota	36	27	35	97	130
Texas	360	345	315	88	91
Washington	36	38	36	100	95
Other States	27	40	37	137	93
United States	1,549	1,625	1,516	98	93

Number of Cattle Marketed on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots – United States

Million head



Other Disappearance on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2014 and 2015

State	During February 2014 (1,000 head)	During January 2015 (1,000 head)	During February 2015		
			Number (1,000 head)	Percent of previous year (percent)	Percent of previous month (percent)
Arizona	1	9	4	400	44
California	3	5	7	233	140
Colorado	10	5	5	50	100
Idaho	1	1	2	200	200
Iowa	2	2	1	50	50
Kansas	10	15	10	100	67
Minnesota	1	1	1	100	100
Nebraska	15	15	15	100	100
Oklahoma	2	1	2	100	200
South Dakota	3	3	1	33	33
Texas	20	15	10	50	67
Washington	2	2	2	100	100
Other States	1	3	2	200	67
United States	71	77	62	87	81

Terms and Definitions of Cattle on Feed Estimates

Cattle on feed are animals being fed a ration of grain, silage, hay and/or protein supplement for slaughter market that are expected to produce a carcass that will grade select or better. It excludes cattle being "backgrounded only" for later sale as feeders or later placement in another feedlot.

Placements are cattle put into a feedlot, fed a ration which will produce a carcass that will grade select or better, and are intended for the slaughter market.

Marketings are cattle shipped out of feedlots to a slaughter market.

Other disappearance includes death loss, movement from feedlots to pasture, and shipments to other feedlots for further feeding.

Reliability of Cattle on Feed Estimates

Survey Procedures: During January and July all known feedlots in the United States with capacity of 1,000 or more head are surveyed to provide data for cattle on feed estimates. During the other months, all known feedlots from 16 States are surveyed. The 16 States account for approximately 98 percent of the cattle on feed in feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head. Individual State estimates are published monthly for 12 of the 16 States. Data collected from the remaining 4 States are used to establish the "Other States" estimates. These 4 States include Illinois, New Mexico, Oregon, and Wyoming. The "Other States" category represents all cattle on feed with a capacity of 1,000 or more head for the rest of the United States.

Estimating Procedures: These cattle on feed estimates were prepared by the Agricultural Statistics Board after reviewing recommendations and analysis submitted by each State office. Regional and State survey data were reviewed for reasonableness with each other and with estimates from the previous month when establishing the current estimates.

Revision Policy: Revisions to previous estimates are made to improve month to month relationships. Estimates for the previous month are subject to revision in all States each month when current estimates are made. In February, all monthly estimates for the previous year, and the number of feedlots and annual marketings from two years ago are reviewed and subject to revisions. The reviews are primarily based on slaughter data, state check-off or brand data, and any other data that may have been received after the original estimate was made. Estimates will also be reviewed after data from the Census of Agriculture are available. No revisions will be made after that date and estimates become final.

Reliability: Since all 1,000+ capacity cattle on feed operators in every State are not included in the monthly survey, survey estimates are subject to sampling variability. Survey results are also subject to non-sampling errors such as omissions, duplications, and mistakes in reporting, recording, and processing the data. The effects of these errors cannot be measured directly. They are minimized through rigid quality controls in the data collection process and through a careful review of all reported data for consistency and reasonableness.

To assist users in evaluating the reliability of estimates in this report, the "**Root Mean Square Error**" is shown for selected items in the table on the following page. The "Root Mean Square Error" is a statistical measure based on past performance and is computed using the differences between first and latest estimates. The "Root Mean Square Error" for cattle on feed inventory estimates over the past 24 months is 0.6 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the final estimate will not be above or below the current estimate of 10.7 million head by more than 0.6 percent. Chances are 9 out of 10 that the difference will not exceed 1.0 percent.

The table on the following page shows a 24 month record of the range of differences between first and latest estimates for selected items. Using estimates of number on feed as an example, changes between the first estimate and the latest estimate during the past 24 months have averaged 54,000 head, ranging from 0 to 97,000 head. During this period the initial estimate has been above the latest estimate 20 times and has been below the latest estimate 3 times. This does not imply that the initial estimate is likely to understate or overstate final inventory.

Reliability of Monthly Cattle on Feed Estimates

[Based on data for the past 24 months]

Item	Root mean square error	90 percent confidence level	Difference between first and latest estimate				
			Average	Smallest	Largest	Months	
						Below latest	Above latest
	(percent)	(percent)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(number)	(number)
Number on feed	0.6	1.0	54	0	97	3	20
Placements	1.3	2.2	15	1	55	10	14
Marketings	1.0	1.7	10	0	47	0	9

Information Contacts

Listed below are the commodity specialists in the Livestock Branch of the National Agricultural Statistics Service to contact for additional information. E-mail inquiries may be sent to nass@nass.usda.gov.

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For more information on NASS surveys and reports, call the NASS Agricultural Statistics Hotline at (800) 727-9540, 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET, or e-mail: nass@nass.usda.gov.

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